

FERNALD CITIZENS TASK FORCE

Chair:

John S. Applegate

Members:

James Bierer
Marvin Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Pam Dunn
Dr. Constance Fox
Guy Guckenberger
Darryl Huff
Jerry Monahan
Tom B. Rentschler
Robert Tabor
Warren E. Strunk
Thomas Wagner
Dr. Gene Willeke

Alternates:

Russ Beckner
Jackie Embry

Ex Officio:

J. Phillip Hamric
Graham Mitchell
Jim Saric

A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes from April 9, 1994 Meeting

Members Present:

John Applegate
Jim Bierer
Marvin Clawson
Pam Dunn
Constance Fox
Guy Guckenberger
Phil Hamric, DOE
Darryl Huff
Graham Mitchell, OEPA
Jerry Monahan
Tom Rentschler
Jim Saric, EPA
Warren Strunk, Senior
Bob Tabor
Gene Willeke

About 17 spectators, including members of public, DOE and other agencies, and FERMCO representatives.

1. Approval of Minutes:

- The draft minutes of the March 12, 1994, meeting of the Task Force were approved without amendment.

2. Remarks:

Chair John Applegate said the Task Force had been requested by Phil Hamric to provide input during development of the strategic plan for the Fernald site. He said he would provide additional information to Task Force members as it became available.

Applegate also reported that he met with DOE's Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Tom Grumbly, and DOE's Director of the

Office of Public Accountability, Cynthia C. Kelly, during a trip to the Washington, D.C., area on other business. He said there was a great deal of discussion about the best way to organize DOE's advisory groups and to ensure compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. He also talked with Mr. Grumbly about the work of the Task Force.

The chair reported on two presentations. The first, on March 24, was a dinner meeting with Bill Weida, an expert on economic development at Colorado College who is studying economic and employment issues at DOE sites. Weida, who was in town to speak at the March 24 FRESH meeting, discussed what he has defined as important considerations in assessing economic impacts. Weida developed two papers, which can be obtained by calling the Task Force staff.

The second presentation on April 7, was a public workshop on Envirocare, which is a commercial disposal facility that is permitted to accept low-level radioactive waste. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Task Force and FRESH. A videotape of the workshop presentation, as well as other materials about Envirocare, are available.

Applegate also introduced Gary Voelker, the acting interim head of DOE's Ohio Office. The Ohio Office will coordinate and consolidate management and other administrative activities for the DOE sites in Ohio and the West Valley site in New York. Voelker explained that the Ohio Office is expected to be fully operational by October 1, 1994. Voelker said a permanent manager should be appointed by that date.

The chair also said the April meeting was the last general information session. Beginning at the May meeting, the Task Force will start to narrow down future use options, which will set the stage for gathering information about cost, risk and other considerations for potential future use scenarios. The focus for the April meeting is on the types of waste found at Fernald and the different technology options.

Applegate also told Task Force members that they will be receiving a general reference, *Toxics A to Z*, which talks about various chemicals and other constituents. This reference will serve as the detailed glossary for Task Force members; a glossary of most-commonly used terms has been developed for the Task Force notebooks, where they are available for easy reference.

3. Status of Action Items and Initiatives:

a) Portman Remarks

Applegate told Task Force members that he spoke to an aide to U.S. Rep. Rob Portman about Portman's remarks about Fernald funding that appeared in a local newspaper article. Applegate said the aide told him that Portman understands that the ongoing environmental studies are the precursor to cleanup and that more actual cleanup activities will be underway. Applegate reported that the aide said Portman was supportive of funding for Fernald, but was concerned that there not be an appearance that money is being wasted.

b) Waste Importation Subcommittee

Applegate said that Darryl Huff agreed to serve as chair of the Waste Importation Subcommittee, which will be addressing a variety of waste disposition and transportation issues. Other members of the subcommittee include Jim Bierer, Lisa Crawford, and Bob Tabor. The subcommittee is just organizing and initially will be gathering information on waste disposition issues.

c) News Clips

Applegate said that Tom Rentschler, who asked for copies of news clips about Fernald and related issues, has been added to the distribution list for news clips. Applegate said if any other Task Force member wanted to receive news clips, he or she should ask the Task Force staff.

d) Briefing Book

Applegate also said Rentschler had developed a list of questions that he has been asked about the Task Force and Fernald. He said that Rentschler's questions would be developed into a briefing book for Task Force members so they would have answers to questions. However, Applegate said that in some instances, Task Force members will simply refer the person asking the question to a DOE or other Fernald official for the answer because not all questions will be directly related to Task Force business.

e) Letters of Commitment

Applegate told Task Force members that they should have received letters from U.S. EPA, Region 5, and Ohio EPA. He said the letter from DOE headquarters is expected to be mailed soon.

4. Briefing on DOE's Baseline:

Phil Hamric told the Task Force that DOE is committed to detailed planning of activities at its sites. The strategic plan will provide the "big picture," while the baseline document will provide the details of each task required to complete the planned activities. Each task is organized with a schedule and cost, and this information has been entered into a computerized database. For example, it is possible to use the database to get information on the total cost of work done to date in a specific operable unit and compare that information with the budgeted amount and projected schedule. Hamric said the database can allow searches for specific safety or regulatory information as well. The baseline system is aimed at developing framework for better tracking of costs and activities. He explained that the baseline is DOE's attempt to have accountability because it includes information on scope, schedule, and cost for the next five years.

Gene Willeke asked if the baseline would display a progressive reduction of risk associated with cleanup activities. He said that it would be useful to see how remediation efforts would reduce the risk, particularly because cleanup will be going on for years. Hamric said the baseline did not integrate any information for tracking the progressive reduction of risks.

Hamric told Task Force members that DOE would be happy to demonstrate the system.

5. New Information for the Toolbox:

Applegate turned this portion of the meeting over to Doug Sarno. He went through the various tables and information prepared since the March Task Force meeting.

Rentschler asked for some clarification about the risk numbers, which

Sarno said represented worst-case scenario (or baseline) risks. Sarno said the risk numbers will change as cleanup progresses, just as different property uses will lead to different numbers. Rentschler also asked how these risks compared to other risks, such as drinking coffee out of Fiestaware four times a day. Sarno said the risk now to people in this country is 1 in 3 or 1 in 4 that they will develop some kind of cancer, depending on which study you read. The risks related to Fernald are excess risks above the 1 in 3 or 1 in 4 risk.

Connie Fox asked the source of the risk information. Sarno said the information was pulled from DOE reports. Graham Mitchell said those reports were prepared under EPA guidance.

Sarno said that more recent data about soil contamination, from samples taken in 1987, is being prepared for the Task Force. The map showing uranium contamination in the soils that was distributed at the meeting used 1984 data.

6. Review of Technology Options:

Sarno discussed the technology options under consideration at Fernald. They include:

- vitrification (turning contaminated materials into glass)
- soil washing (using a solvent to remove contamination)
- cementation (immobilizing constituents in waste with cement)
- thermal drying (removing water and other liquids with heat)

Sarno discussed how these technology options did not actually neutralize their radioactive natures, but rendered them more manageable for disposal.

Applegate asked if recycling were an option; Hamric said that recycling already was incorporated into the technology development.

Applegate asked Task Force members if they were interested in a tour that focused on the technologies being developed at Fernald. The group agreed that a technology tour would be useful; Applegate said he would provide details when arrangements were made.

7. Opportunity for Public Participation:

There were no public comments.

8. New Business:

Applegate said that several interns would be working for the Task Force this summer to do research and other support for issues such as waste importation and disposition. He asked Task Force members to list issues they would like addressed by the interns.

9. Materials Distributed at Meeting:

- Maps showing water supply wells, major water users within a five-mile radius, maximum uranium readings in wells
- Description of Waste Management Options
- Comparison of Waste Management Options
- Characteristics of Key Fernald Contaminants
- Expanded Glossary
- April issue of the Fernald Cleanup Report
- Handout about DOE's Ohio Field Office

10. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the full Task Force is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to noon on May 14, 1994, at the Amerisuites in Forest Park.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Approved May 14, 1994